

Message Text

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FOR POLADS

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO, UR, US, SP

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON U.S.-SPANISH AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY. THREE OF THE SOVIET UNION'S CENTRAL PRESS NEWSPAPERS--PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA--HAVE NOW ATTACKED THE U.S.-SPANISH BASE AGREEMENT IN SIGNED COMMENTARIES. THE FIRST TWO TIE THE AGREEMENT TO POLITICAL SUPPORT FREELY GIVEN TO THE CRUMBLING FRANCE REGIME, WHILE THE ARMY PAPER MAKES THE SAME POINT AS WELL AS ADDING CRITICISM THAT THE AGREEMENT IS PROOF OF CONTINUING U.S. "BASE-OMANIA." END SUMMARY.

2. CRITICISM OF THE FORTHCOMING U.S.-SPANISH AGREEMENT ON
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BASING RIGHTS REVOLVES AROUND U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE "CRUMBLING"

FRANCO REGIME. IZVESTIYA ON OCT 8 IN A COMMENTARY BY A. KRIVOPALOV RELATES DETAILS OF U.S. DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF THE AGREEMENT AND OF ALLEGED U.S. OFFICIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RECENT EXECUTIONS, THEN REPORTS ON SIMILAR CRITICISM OF U.S. ATTITUDES AMONG NATO MEMBERS. SPAIN, FOR ITS PART, HE ARGUES, HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO USE THE U.S. DESIRE FOR BASES AS A TICKET INTO NATO, BUT WHEN THAT FAILED, HAD HOPED TO GAIN AT LEAST A U.S.-SPANISH DEFENSE TREATY. IN VIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC UPROAR OVER THE EXECUTIONS, HOWEVER, SPAIN'S CONDITIONS FOR AGREEING TO U.S. BASES BECAME MUCH MORE "OBLIGING", ESPECIALLY AFTER THE U.S. TOOK A "SPECIAL POSITION" IN NOT JOINING INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF FRANCO. HE CONCLUDES THAT THE BASE AGREEMENT IS NEVERTHELESS A "SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTORY" FOR FRANCO, WHO WILL RECEIVE AS A BONUS 500-700 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS IN ARMS AID.

3. A PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON OCT 9 (ALEKSANDR ISTOMIN) MAKES THE SAME POINTS, BUT ALSO CONTENTS THAT IN RETURN FOR BASE RIGHTS THE U.S. WILL GIVE SPAIN "CERTAIN GUARANTEES IN THE MILITARY AREA" IN ADDITION TO ARMS AID. ISTOMIN WARNS THAT THE ATTEMPTS BY THE PENTAGON TO PRESERVE ITS BASE RIGHTS BY SUPPORTING THE "REACTIONARY FRANCO REGIME" CONTRADICT THE "TRUE INTERESTS OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE" AND IN ADDITION ARE A "CHALLENGE TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION".

4. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON OCT 10 EXPECTEDLY TAKES THE STIFFEST LINE OF ALL, MAKING NOT ONLY MOST OF THE ABOVE POINTS, BUT ADDING THAT TO PRESERVE THE U.S. BASES ALONG THE NORTHERN RIM OF THE MEDITERRANEAN "CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE U.S. IN PENTAGON INTERESTS ARE READY AS BEFORE TO SUPPORT EVEN THE MOST REACTIONARY REGIMES, SUCH AS THE FRANCO REGIME, AND... TO PLAY THE MOST UNPRINCIPLED POLITICAL GAMES WHICH ARE CON- DEMNED BY THE WHOLE WORLD. BASE-OMANIA REMAINS AN INCURABLE AILMENT OF AMERICAN MILITARISM." STOESEL

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